

Citizen's Transportation Oversight Committee

Arizona Department of Transportation
Burton Barr Public Library
1221 North Central Avenue, 4th Floor
Phoenix, Arizona

Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2002

A Citizen's Transportation Oversight Committee (CTOC) meeting was held at the Arizona Department of Transportation, 206 South 17th Avenue, Room 145-147, Phoenix, Arizona on July 16, 2002 with Chairperson Roc Arnett presiding.

Members Present:

Roc Arnett, Chairperson
Jim Lykins, Maricopa County District 2
Tom Liddy, Maricopa County District 1
Ron Gawlitta, Maricopa County District 3

Members Absent:

Dwight Amery, Member-at-Large
Paul Schwartz, Maricopa County District 4

Others Present:

Greg Lee, Deloitte & Touche
Bill Hayden, ADOT
Edward Johnson, Citizen of Youngtown
Steve Jimenez, ADOT
Victor Mendez, ADOT
Chuck Eaton, ADOT

Carolyn Deobler, ADOT
Dennis Smith, MAG
Dan Lance, ADOT
Kwi-Sung Kang, ADOT
Elizabeth Neville, ADOT

1. Call To Order:

Chairperson Arnett called the Citizen's Transportation Oversight Committee meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes, 2/19/02, 4/5/02 and 5/21/02:

Chairman Arnett called for a motion. Ron Gawlitta moved to approve the minutes of the CTOC meetings as circulated. Jim Lykins seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

3. Staff Report:

Chuck Eaton reported the following information:

- We have been in the process of certifying the Regional Freeway Life Cycle Program, reviewing costs, revenue projections and changes that occurred over the past six months. Certification was recently approved by the Director and will go to print tomorrow.
- Members were provided copies of the status report concerning 14 recommendations from the 2000 Performance Audit. We feel we have completed two more recommendations, including one related to the roles, responsibilities and accountability of the project team, and a second in terms of how well ADOT is educating the public on the program. Three items remain: taking lessons learned from the construction projects back into the design process; a review of program measurements; and implementing air quality process improvements and communication of requirements to contract construction teams. The goal is to have these items completed by the end of the year.
- Santan Freeway from 56th Street to McClintock has been awarded to Pulice for \$38.4 million, which is approximately \$1 million under the state's estimate.
- ADOT received a budget increase of \$3 million for maintaining statewide highways, with a majority directed toward the MAG region. Landscaping projects on the Regional Freeway System are back on track and we have advertised the Red Mountain Freeway, Country Club to Gilbert and Pima Freeway, and Scottsdale to Pima landscape projects.
- SR 51 HOV lane project will be built as a Design Build project. Kiewit Western with Parsons Transportation; Ames/Kraemer with Parsons Brinckerhoff and Granite/Sundt with URS were selected to prepare proposals. Proposals are due October 30 and cost proposals are due December 13.
- Members were asked to return their surveys.

The following questions and comments were made:

- Chairperson Arnett asked about right-of-way costs. Mr. Eaton said the rate of increase in right-of-way costs has slowed and the impact of early right-of-way acquisitions are starting to become apparent. He explained Right-of-Way has been focused on getting right-of-way plans prepared and appraisals done so offers can be made when 2003 money becomes available.
- Mr. Gawlitta asked for an update on the South Mountain Freeway. Mr. Eaton reported a Design Concept Study Report and Environmental Impact Statement are being prepared. The Purpose and Need report has been completed and the next step is to look at alternative alignments. The Gila River Indian Community has not responded to our request for possible alignments on their land that they would consider.
- Mr. Liddy asked what would be the justification for not aligning with the Loop 101. Mr. Eaton explained Tolleson does not want their city bisected and the City of Phoenix wants it to stay where it was originally planned.
- Mr. Lance confirmed for Chairperson Arnett that a connection to the Loop 101 is being considered.
- Mr. Gawlitta stated that he would like to see them involved in the public portion of the analysis. Mr. Hayden invited the Committee to participate in the public participation meetings scheduled for the third week of each month. Mr. Gawlitta agreed to attend the meetings as a CTOC representative.

4. FY 2002-2003 CTOC Budget:

Carolyn Deobler, ADOT, reviewed the FY 2001-2002 budget report. She said CTOC was originally allocated \$15,500 for Personal Services, of which CTOC has spent \$8,789. She stated \$13,000 was allocated for Professional and Outside Services and \$11,595 was spent. She reported \$41 of the \$300 allocated for In-State

Travel and \$7,855 of the \$12,000 allocated to Other Operating Expenses has been spent. She concluded 69% of the originally allocated budget was spent. She reviewed the proposed budget for FY 2003, with the following allocations: \$10,000 for Personal Services; \$213,000 for Professional and Outside Services - including \$12,000 for the Financial Compliance Audit, an estimated cost of \$200,000 for the Performance Audit and meeting transcription costs; \$200 for In-State Travel; and \$10,800 for Other Operating Expenses. She said the proposed FY 2003 budget totals \$234,000.

The following questions and comments were made:

- Mr. Gawlitta asked what they will end up paying for the Performance Audit. Mr. Eaton said the two audits CTOC has done to date have cost \$200,000 each. The audit is conducted under the Auditor General's direction and CTOC is committed to fund its cost. The scope of the next audit may need to be reduced given the short period of time with which the Committee could effect change. He suggested an agenda item be added to the September meeting and that the Auditor General be invited to discuss the parameters of the audit.

A motion to approve the FY 2002-2003 CTOC Budget was made by Mr. Liddy, seconded by Mr. Gawlitta and passed unanimously.

5. FY 2001-2002 Financial Compliance Audit:

Mr. Eaton explained CTOC is required by statute to contract an independent financial compliance audit of the Regional Freeway System expenditures. The firm of Deloitte and Touche was contracted to perform last year's audit and are under contract to ADOT to do these types of audits. We recommend the Financial Compliance Audit be tacked on to their annual audit of ADOT's finances. The main objective of the audit is to ensure that audit sampling includes design, right-of-way and construction projects from various freeway corridors. The audit will cover the fiscal year from July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002 and will determine if codes in the funds charging guidelines are allowable costs and ensure total expenditures do not exceed budgeted amounts.

A motion to approve the Financial Compliance Audit and Deloitte and Touche as the auditors was made by Mr. Lykins, seconded by Mr. Liddy and passed unanimously.

6. FY 2003-2007 Life Cycle Certification Program:

Kwi Kang made a power point presentation concerning the Life Cycle Program Certification. The purpose of the certification is to review the progress of the Regional Freeway System program and identify projections and changes in program's revenue and costs. The Certification was prepared based on the FY 03-07 MAG Life Cycle Program, approved by the Transportation Board on June 21, 2002. To date, 91 miles of new freeway have been opened to traffic, 13 miles are under construction, 32 miles are under design and 7,339 acres of right-of-way have been acquired. The following program changes were made: 1) design, right-of-way and construction costs were updated; 2) new noise mitigation projects on the Pima and Price Freeways were created; 3) separate utility/bridge projects from the Santan construction project were created; 4) three Santan landscape projects were consolidated into two; 5) project schedules were adjusted to better match SRPMIC progress; and 6) South Mountain schedules were adjusted to coincide with current completion of the DCR/EIS. Revenue growth rates for the half-cent sales tax continue to decline and maintenance funding is still marginal. The Legislature increased the Board's HURF bonding capacity by \$300 million to cover funding reductions. Right-of-way costs on the Red Mountain and Santan freeways have stabilized during this certification period. Written copies of Mr. Kang's presentation were provided to the members.

The following questions and comments were made:

- Chairperson Arnett asked how much the half-cent sales tax revenue has declined. Mr. Kang clarified the rate of increase has declined, but actual revenue dollars have increased.
- Mr. Gawlitta asked what they anticipate the start and finish dates to be for the pedestrian bridge on I-17 at Maryland. Mr. Lance stated it is a City of Phoenix project, noting design has started and 30-60 percent plans are being reviewed. Money is available this year for right-of-way purchases.
- Mr. Liddy asked if there has been any feedback on the installation of the pedestrian bridge across US 60. Mr. Lance reported the installation went well and everyone seems to be pleased with it.
- Mr. Gawlitta commented on the deafening noise along the Superstition at Power Road. Mr. Mendez pointed out everyone shares responsibility for noise mitigation, noting some development occurred after alignments were identified and the freeways were built.

7. Appointment of the MAG Transportation Policy Committee:

Chairman Arnett provided a roster of the new MAG Executive Committee. Nominations for the MAG Transportation Policy Committee approved June 26, 2002 were submitted. As Chair of the CTOC, he will participate on the Transportation Policy Committee.

Dennis Smith, MAG, provided a brief history of Proposition 300, the first half-cent sales tax. ADOT started building the interstate system from the outmost parts of the state because of less political controversy. A five-member committee started looking at options for building the interstate system and approached the County who suggested they bond the county property tax. The business community did not support the County's suggestion and proposed they obtain the necessary funds through a sales tax. In the early 1990's, we approached the Legislature and recommended an audit be done to correct revenue and cost estimates. The performance audit laid out in law all of the responsibilities and, since then, the freeway system has been on budget and on time. It makes sense to move forward with the half-cent sales tax extension since a planning agency that knows how to do the planning and a Department of Transportation that knows how to build improvements are now in place.

8. CTOC Voting Responsibilities on the MAG Regional Council:

Mr. Eaton reported MAG discussed whether CTOC and ADOT should have voting rights on administrative decisions. MAG staff reviewed the issue and proposed changes to their bylaws. The issue has since cooled and MAG is not necessarily ready to take action at this time.

Mr. Smith noted the Transportation Committee is intended to bring CTOC, ADOT and the business community together to work as a team.

9. Call to the Public:

Ed Johnson, Youngtown citizen, asked about the status of his previous request for north and southbound left turn arrows at 111th Avenue and Grand Avenue. Chairperson Arnett stated he would address a letter to ADOT asking that they respond to Mr. Johnson's request. Mr. Mendez offered to have the Regional Traffic Engineer look at the intersection to see if improvements can be made. Mr. Johnson spoke about the poor roadway conditions on 91st Avenue and Grand at the New River Bridge. He suggested it be resurfaced while construction is occurring in the area. Mr. Lance said resurfacing the roadway is not in the scope of the construction project, however, the pavement preservation program is looking at a number of improvements along the Grand Avenue corridor.

10. Next Regular CTOC Meeting:

CTOC - Arizona Department of Transportation
Burton Barr Central Library
1221 North Central Avenue, 4th Floor
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September 17, 2002, Tuesday – 5:00 p.m.

11. CTOC Member Reports:

Mr. Gawlitta asked if the Desert Hills interchange is on the radar screen. Mr. Lance explained Desert Hills has been converted to the Anthem Interchange. Mr. Gawlitta stated the area south of Anthem is becoming quite congested. Mr. Lance reported the Daisy Mountain Interchange will service the south side of the Anthem complex. Eventually the City of Phoenix plans to extend 23rd Avenue up and tie it into the Pioneer Interchange.

12. Closing Comments and Adjournment:

No comments were made.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.